

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-8 and 11-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 9-10 having been canceled, Claims 4-8 having been amended and Claims 11-13 added by way of the present amendment. Support for the amended claims and the new claims is found in the originally filed claims and therefore no new matter is added.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1-5 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-5 and 9-10 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horimai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,798) in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,061). Claims 6-8 were objected to as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple-dependent claim.

Claims 4 and 5 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

In reply, Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form, as amended Claim 4 and new Claim 11. Claim 5 has been changed to depend from Claim 11. Claims 12 and 13 have been added to depend from Claim 11 and contain the same subject matter as the body of Claims 6 and 7. Claims 6-8 have been amended to depend from Claim 4. Therefore, no new matter is added. Likewise, each of independent Claims 4 and 11 have been amended to address the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the forgoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4-8 and 11-13, as amended, are definite

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and patentably distinguishing over the prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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